

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) For use in a base station of a wireless network capable of communicating with mobile stations located in a coverage area of said wireless network, an apparatus for assigning a vocoder associated with said base station to process call traffic associated with a first said mobile station, said apparatus comprising:

a connection network capable of connecting a plurality of vocoders ~~of differing capabilities~~ for encoding and decoding analog signals of differing types to a plurality of channel elements, each of said plurality of channel elements capable of processing forward channel messages transmitted to said first mobile station and reverse channel messages received from said first mobile station; and

a controller capable of receiving an overhead message transmitted by said first mobile station and extracting from said overhead message a data value suitable for indicating if said first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic, wherein said controller causes said connection network to connect a first channel element processing forward and reverse channel messages associated with said first mobile station to a first selected vocoder capable of processing TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic if said data value indicates said first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic.

2. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said data value comprises unique electronic serial number (ESN) data associated with said first mobile station.

3. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said data value comprises at least one predetermined data bit of the overhead message.

4. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said data value comprises a plurality of bits of the overhead message.

5. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said overhead message is an origination message transmitted from said first mobile station to said base station.

6. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the plurality of vocoders includes a plurality of non-TTY/TDD Baudot code-capable vocoders such that the plurality of non-TTY/TDD Baudot code-capable vocoders outnumber the TTY/TDD Baudot code-capable vocoders.

7. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said data value comprises unique International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI) data associated with said first mobile station.

8. (Original) The apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said controller causes said connection network to connect a second channel element processing forward and reverse channel messages associated with said first mobile station to a second selected vocoder that is incapable of processing TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic if said data value does not indicate that said first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic.

9. (Currently Amended) A wireless network comprising:
a plurality of base transceiver stations capable of communicating with mobile stations located in a coverage area of said wireless network, wherein a first one of said plurality of base transceiver stations comprises an apparatus for assigning a vocoder associated with said base station to process call traffic associated with a first said mobile station, wherein said apparatus comprises:

a connection network capable of connecting a plurality of vocoders ~~of differing capabilities~~ for encoding and decoding analog signals of differing types to a plurality of channel elements, each of said plurality of channel elements capable of processing forward channel messages transmitted to said first mobile station and reverse channel messages received from said first mobile station; and

a controller capable of receiving a control message transmitted by said first mobile station and extracting from said control message a data value suitable for indicating if said first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic, wherein said controller causes said connection network to connect a first channel element

processing forward and reverse channel messages associated with said first mobile station to a first selected vocoder capable of processing TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic if said data value indicates said first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic.

10. (Original) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said data value comprises unique electronic serial number (ESN) data associated with said first mobile station.

11. (Original) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said data value comprises at least one predetermined data bit in an overhead control message.

12. (Original) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said data value comprises a plurality of bits of the overhead message.

13. (Original) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said overhead message is an origination message transmitted from said first mobile station to said base station.

14. (Original) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein the plurality of vocoders includes a plurality of non-TTY/TDD Baudot code-capable vocoders such that the plurality of non-TTY/TDD Baudot code-capable vocoders outnumbers the TTY/TDD Baudot code-capable vocoders.

15. (Original) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said data value comprises unique International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI) data associated with said first mobile station.

16. (Original) The wireless network as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said controller causes said connection network to connect a second channel element processing forward and reverse channel messages associated with said first mobile station to a second selected vocoder that is incapable of processing TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic if said data value does not indicate that said first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic.

17. (Currently Amended) For use in a base station of a wireless network that is capable of communicating with mobile stations located in a coverage area of the wireless network, a method of assigning one of a plurality of vocoders ~~of differing capabilities~~ for encoding and decoding analog signals of differing types associated with the base station to process call traffic associated with a first mobile station, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a control message transmitted by the first mobile station;
extracting from the control message a data value suitable for indicating if the first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic; and
if the data value indicates that the first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic, connecting a first channel element processing forward and reverse channel messages associated with the first mobile station to a first selected vocoder capable of processing TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic.

18. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein the data value comprises unique electronic serial number (ESN) data associated with the first mobile station.

19. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein the data value comprises at least one predetermined data bit in an overhead control message.

20. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein the data value comprises unique International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI) data associated with said first mobile station.

21. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 17 and further including the step of:
if the data value does not indicate that said first mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic, connecting a second channel element processing forward

and reverse channel messages associated with the first mobile station to a second selected vocoder that is incapable of processing TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic

22. (Currently Amended) For use in a mobile station that operates in a wireless network that communicates with a plurality of mobile stations located in a coverage area of the wireless network, a method of assigning one of a plurality of vocoders ~~of differing capabilities~~ for encoding and decoding analog signals of differing types associated with a base station to process call traffic associated with the mobile station, the method comprising the steps of:

the mobile station transmitting a control message comprising a data value that is suitable for indicating whether the mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic; and

if the data value indicates that the mobile station is capable of transmitting and receiving TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic, the mobile station communicating with the base station through a first channel element that processes forward and reverse channel messages associated with the first mobile station, the first channel element being coupled to a first selected vocoder that is capable of processing TTY/TDD Baudot code traffic.